

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 EA-10 H-01 IO-13 SP-02 /068 W
-----101233 141208Z /41

R 130526Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0872
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
JCRC BARBERS PT HI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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SECSTATE FOR D/HA-PW, D/HA-ORM

CINCPAC FOR J23-J36

DIA FOR DB-4

SUBJ: PW-MIA INFORMATION FROM INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF A. STATE 112448, DTG 031600Z MAY 78
B. STATE 161270, DTG 240012Z JUN 78

1. REF A GUIDANCE REGARDING ACQUISITION OF PW/MIA INFORMATION FROM INDOCHINA REFUGEES STATED, ESSENTIALLY, THAT WHILE WE SHOULD REFRAIN FROM AGGRESSIVE DEBRIEFINGS (IN ORDER NOT TO STIMULATE FALSE RESPONSES), WE SHOULD ASSURE THAT A CONTINUING PROGRAM EXISTS TO RECEIVE AND REPORT ANY PW/MIA INFORMATION WHICH COMES TO LIGHT. REF B ELABORATED FURTHER, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL LATITUDE FOR SOLICITATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION FROM REFUGEES AS THEY EXIT FROM THAILAND THROUGH THE TRANSIT CENTERS IN BANGKOK. FOLLOWING PROVIDES SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REGARDING OUR RESPONSE TO DATE ON REFERENCED GUIDANCE.

2. THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION, BY LETTER, HAS CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE LOCAL UNHCR OFFICE, ICEM, AND THE MISSIONS OF FRANCE,

CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA THE CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST IN THE ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO THIS ISSUE AND ASKED THEM TO BRING ANY SUCH CASES TO OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IN ADDITION A MODIFICATION IS BEING MADE TO THE FORMS USED DURING REFUGEE INTERVIEWS BY THE JOINT VOLUNTARY AGENCY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE REFUGEE SECTION. A NOTATION WILL BE MADE DURING EACH INTERVIEW AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE REFUGEE VOLUNTEERED ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS ISSUE, WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE BEING IMMEDIATELY CALLED TO THE REFUGEE SECTION'S ATTENTION AND THE REFUGEE RECEIVING AN EXTENSIVE DEBRIEF. NOTE, HOWEVER, AS IN THE PAST, THE INTERVIEWER WILL NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING PW/MIA MATTERS WITH THE REFUGEE. WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT EMPHASIZING THIS ISSUE IN THE CAMPS WILL LEAD TO FALSE AND/OR EXAGGERATED STORIES BY REFUGEES IN THE HOPE OF IMPROVING THEIR CHANCES FOR ACCEPTANCE UNDER OUR REFUGEE PROGRAM.

3. WE HAVE ALSO PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED POSTERS AT THE REFUGEE TRANSIT CENTER. THESE POSTERS IN LAO, HMONG, KHMER, VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE LANGUAGES SPECIFICALLY SOLICIT PW/MIA INFORMATION FROM THE REFUGEES AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONTACT US. (TEXT OF POSTER WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTTEL). IN ADDITION, UNHCR, ICEM, AND JVA TRANSIT CENTER PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ALERTED ON THE NEED TO GET ANY REFUGEES WHO HAVE INFORMATION IN TOUCH WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US.

4. WE ARE PREPARED, IF THE DEPARTMENT DESIRES, TO SUPPLY EACH REFUGEE FAMILY WITH A HANDOUT WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN THE BANGKOK TRANSIT CENTER DUPLICATING THE TEXT OF THE POSTERS DESCRIBED EARLIER. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS AS HANDOUTS WOULD INEVITABLY BE CIRCULATED BACK TO REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS AND POSSIBLY SERVE AS A STIMULANT TO EXAGGERATED OR FABRICATED INFORMATION. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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